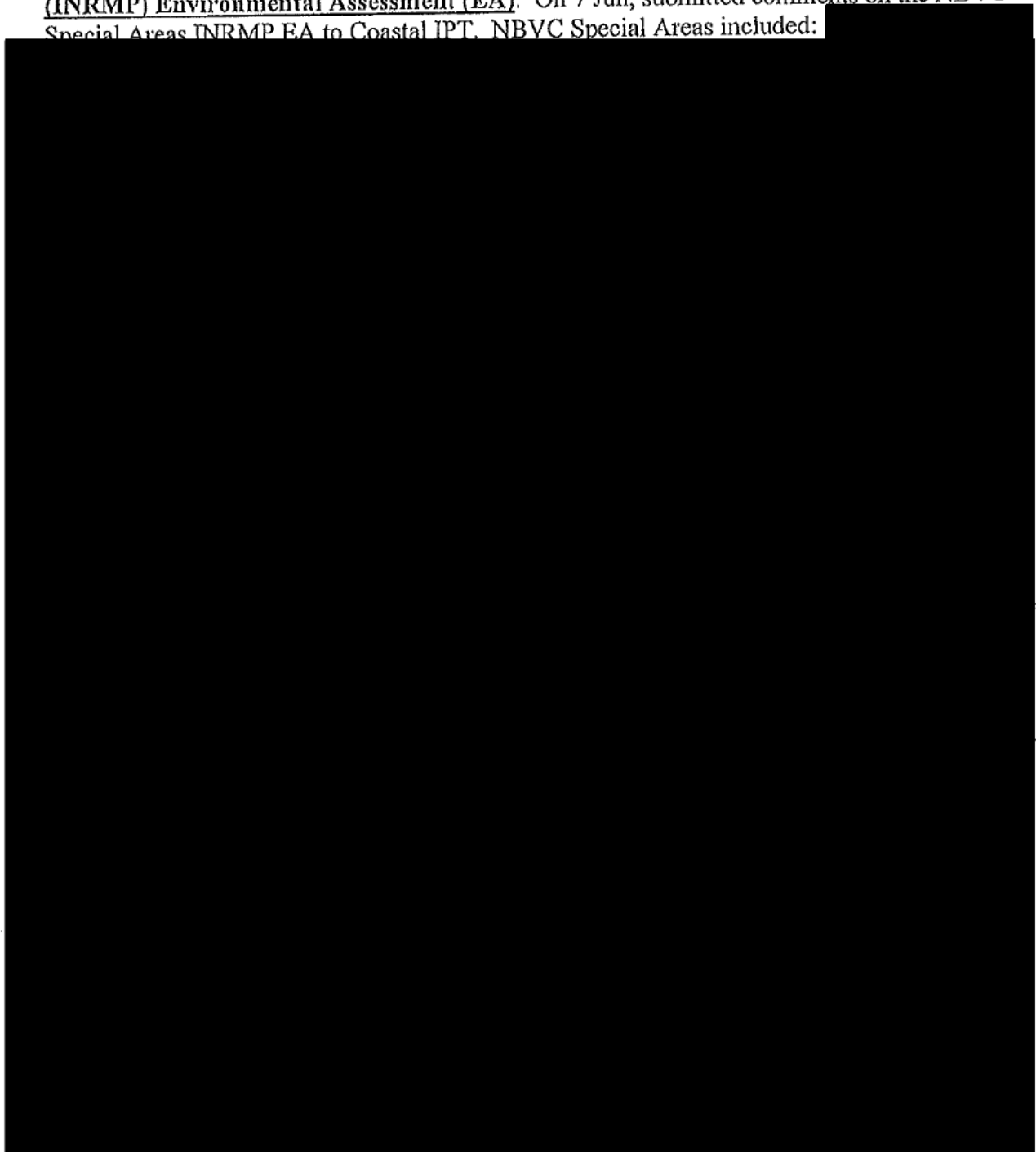


NBVC CNRSW Update for 5 – 12 Jun 2013

ACTION ITEMS/ISSUES OF CONCERN: NSTR

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (SA)/FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI) ITEMS:

- NB Ventura County – Special Areas Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Environmental Assessment (EA): On 7 Jun, submitted comments on the NBVC Special Areas INRMP EA to Coastal IPT. NBVC Special Areas included:



highlighted =
not responsive

Delgado, Tonja L CIV RLSO SW VENTURA COUNTY

From: Shepherd, Anna CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 10:42
To: Tejada, Adriane CIV NBVC
Cc: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00; Bentley, Diane L CIV NAVFACSW, PM Public Works; Danza, James M CIV NAVFACSW; Mallory, Kathleen M CIV NAVFAC SW
Subject: RE: WYWO - Assemblyman Jeff Gorell & Russell Galipeau of San Miguel Island
Signed By: ANNA.SHEPHERD@NAVY.MIL

Hi Adriane,

Russell Galipeau probably wants to talk about the transfer of San Miguel Island to the National Park Service (b)(5)
(b)(5) NAVAIR is apparently
waiting until they know the status of (b)(5) until they declare San Miguel Island excess.

I recommend that we hold off on this meeting until we have a better understanding of the way forward with (b)(5)
(b)(5)

VR

*highlight =
recomm
with
redaction*

Anna Shepherd, AICP
Community Plans and Liaison Officer
Naval Base Ventura County
805-989-9752
351-9752 DSN

-----Original Message-----

From: Tejada, Adriane CIV NBVC
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 15:21
To: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Cc: Shepherd, Anna CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU
Subject: WYWO - Assemblyman Jeff Gorell & Russell Galipeau of San Miguel Island

Skipper ~ you received the following calls:

Assemblyman Gorell called for you, cell 805-217-7679, he said you would know why he is calling.

Russ called earlier today to get on your calendar to discuss SMI, 7 October @1500, I put this down as tentative. He said he has been speaking to Anna Shepherd.

Anna ~ can you provide details of what Russ may want to discuss at this meeting? I will invite you to the meeting as well once the CO confirms to hold the meeting.

Vr/
Adriane ©

Command Executive Assistant
to the Commanding Officer
Naval Base Ventura County
Ph: 805.989.7903

(^v^) ♡.●*""*●.♫.●*..●'♡
'*..*' ♡' .●.♫.●''♡*""*●.♫.●*..●'♡

Delgado, Tonja L CIV RL SO SW VENTURA COUNTY

is this responsive?
recommending
if anything is deemed releasable.

From: Shepherd, Anna CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 15:46
To: Tejada, Adriane CIV NBVC; Brown, James E CDR NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Bentley, Diane L CIV NAVFACSW, PM Public Works; Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00; Brown, Michaela B CIV NAVBASE Ventura County, N5; Loeschke, Scott D CDR NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - Command Office; Gearhart, Kimberly E CIV NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Subject: RE: CPLO/Encroachment Monthly Mtg
Attachments: Monthly Mtg with CO - 2013-08-21.docx
Signed By: ANNA.SHEPHERD@NAVY.MIL

<<...>>

All,

Attached is the read-ahead for tomorrow's meeting.

VR

Anna Shepherd, AICP

Community Plans and Liaison Officer

Naval Base Ventura County

805-989-9752

351-9752 DSN

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Tejada, Adriane CIV NBVC
Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2013 16:26
To: Tejada, Adriane CIV NBVC; Brown, James E CDR NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Shepherd, Anna CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Bentley, Diane L CIV NAVFACSW, PM Public Works; Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00; Brown, Michaela B CIV NAVBASE Ventura County, N5; Loeschke, Scott D CDR NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - Command Office; Gearhart, Kimberly E CIV NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Subject: CPLO/Encroachment Monthly Mtg
When: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 1:30 PM-2:30 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).
Where: CO's Ofc/PM1

(b)(5)

Delgado, Tonja L CIV RLSD SW VENTURA COUNTY

From: Smith, Dixon R RADM CNRSW, N00
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 15:17
To: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Cc: Ramos, Teresa C CIV Executive Director Region SW, N00; David, Gerral CAPT (CO) Naval Support Activity Monterey; Maurer, Clifford M CAPT NAVFAC SW, ESWD; Ravan, Melanie D CIV REC Counsel San Diego, N00; Brown, Mary CIV CNRSW, N00
Subject: RE: INQUIRY FROM NPS ON SAN MIGUEL ISLANDS EXCESS PROPERTY
Signed By: dixon.smith@navy.mil

Thanks Larry. (b)(5) pls keep me posted as we move forward. All the best, DRS

-----Original Message-----

From: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 12:35
To: Smith, Dixon R RADM CNRSW, N00
Cc: Ramos, Teresa C CIV Executive Director Region SW, N00; David, Gerral CAPT (CO) Naval Support Activity Monterey; Maurer, Clifford M CAPT NAVFAC SW, ESWD
Subject: INQUIRY FROM NPS ON SAN MIGUEL ISLANDS EXCESS PROPERTY

Admiral,

The local head of the National Parks Service has asked me on 2 occasions about the possibility of NAVY transfer of San Miguel to NPS.

We are coordinating with your staff and assessing from NAWCWD and PACFLT, the history on San Miguel and adjacent Prince Island.

We will also be assessing usage by tenants and the way ahead if these islands are not utilized and can be deemed excess property.

Will keep you informed as we proceed through the process.

Vr,
lv

CAPT Larry Vasquez, USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Base Ventura County
Point Mugu/Port Hueneme/San Nicolas Island
Comm: 805-989-7904
DSN: 351-7904

*not responsive
predecisional*

Delgado, Tonja L CIV RL SO SW VENTURA COUNTY

From: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 16:07
To: Loeschke, Scott D CDR NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - Command Office
Subject: Re: Channel Island National Park General Plan Comments

(b)(5)

----- Original Message -----

From: Loeschke, Scott D CDR NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - Command Office
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 01:52 PM
To: Vasquez, Lawrence R CAPT NAVBASE Ventura County, N00
Subject: FW: Channel Island National Park General Plan Comments

Skipper,

FYSA - discussion below concerning who should coordinate the Navy response to Channel Island National Park for their General Management Plan / Wilderness Plan and EIS.

V/r,
CSO

-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, James E CDR NAVFAC SW, MUGU
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Loeschke, Scott D CDR NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - Command Office
Subject: Fw: Channel Island National Park General Plan Comments

CSO,

Here's the response to the email I mentioned this morning. Just one more item likely to make its way into the January conversation.

V/r

Jim

Sent from RIM Blackberry device

----- Original Message -----

From: Ugoretz, John K CIV Sustainability Office, 52F00ME
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 09:04 AM
To: Swaffer, Darlene L CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Paris, Tony NAVAIR; Deakin, Dwight CIV Sustainability Office, 52F00ME
Cc: Shide, Dan T CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Shepherd, Anna CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Brooks, Rhonda L CIV NAWCWD Range Operations, 52120ME; Lousen, Chad A CIV NAVFAC, MUGU; Montoya, Joseph L CIV NAVFAC SW, PRV42; Adams, Allen J CIV NAVFAC SW, MUGU; Brown, James E CDR NAVFAC SW, MUGU
Subject: RE: Channel Island National Park General Plan Comments

Darlene

NBVC CNRSW Update for 1-7 Feb 2014

ACTION ITEMS/ISSUES OF CONCERN:

- NB-Ventura County – Potential UXO at San Miguel Island (SMI): On 4 Feb, confirmed that NBVC Explosive Safety Officer and EODMU3 personnel will travel to SMI on 11 Feb to assess the object and determine the appropriate course of action. The National Park Service (NPS) staff found an object on 14 January, closed the area to the public and NPS staff. NPS operations and Navy MOU are over 20 years old and require an update. ESM will be provided SEPCOR.

highlighted =
OT responsive

NBVC CNRSW Update for 19-25 April 2014

ACTION ITEMS/ISSUES OF CONCERN: NSTR.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (SA)/FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI) ITEMS:

- NB Ventura County – San Miguel Island Closure: On 11 Apr, NBVC sent a letter to the National Park Service (NPS) requesting that all public visits be halted and that NPS staff receive safety training pertaining to potential unexploded ordinance (UXO), prior to resuming work on San Miguel Island. This action was taken in response to possible UXO found on island 14 Jan. and to recent NPS proposal to increase visitor opportunities, including overnight visits to the island. After Navy release of NPS closed the island on 17 Apr. NBVC staff is working with NAWC-WD to determine mission need and NAVFAC to start risk analysis to determine the way forward.

highlighted =
not responsive



Naval Base Ventura County

311 Main Road Suite 1, Point Mugu CA 93042-5033
(805) 989-9234/FAX 989-1785

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE # 14-05

April 18, 2014

POC: Kimberly Gearhart (805) 989-9234

Recreational visits to San Miguel Island suspended

POINT MUGU, Calif. – Effectively immediately, public visits to San Miguel Island (SMI), part of the Channel Islands National Park (CINP), are temporarily suspended.

Due to safety concerns, the Department of the Navy, which is the land owner at SMI and is represented locally by Naval Base Ventura County, has asked the National Parks Service via the CINP Superintendent's office to halt all recreational visits to the island.

The island was used as part of a bombing range during and after World War II. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety while the Navy conducts a risk assessment and, if necessary, clean-up at the island. The length of the closure will depend on the risk assessment findings, but the island will likely not reopen to visitors this year.

"The Navy is dedicated to the conservation of our national resources, of which the Channel Islands are a unique and critical piece," said Capt. Larry Vasquez, NBVC's commanding officer. "But the safety and well-being of NPS personnel and those who visit San Miguel Island are our highest concern. We are working closely with our federal partners to ensure the park is a safe and inviting place to visit."

For more information regarding Naval Base Ventura County, please call the NBVC public affairs office at 805-989-9234.

For more information about National Parks Service programs at CINP, call the NPS public information office at 805-658-5725.

-END-



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, California 93001-4354

April 18, 2014

1.A.1.(L30)

Captain L.R. Vasquez
Commanding Officer
Naval Base Ventura County
3211 Main Road, Suite 1
Point Mugu, California 93042-5033

Dear Captain Vasquez,

As of April 14, 2014, we are in receipt of your letter dated April 7, 2014, ordering the closure of San Miguel and Prince Islands (SMI). We clearly share your concerns regarding the risks to park employees and others and we share your desire to assure public safety. For this reason, we have management practices in place that we feel have ensured that our staff, researchers, contractors, and the visiting public work and experience the island in a safe manner. We are very willing to work with you to augment or amend our practices in order to address your concerns regarding safety and liability in order to permit continued stewardship, protection, and enjoyment of SMI. In our view, nothing about the characteristics, management, or use of SMI has changed in a manner that necessitates such an immediate or hard closure. We would like to discuss any concerns you may have regarding safety and the management of visitors.

For over 40 years the National Park Service (NPS) has served as the primary resource steward for SMI. We are pleased that you recognize our sound stewardship.

For over 30 years we have welcomed visitors from all over the world to SMI, with the concurrence of the United States Navy (Navy), in a responsible and safe manner. Natural and cultural resources management and providing for the enjoyment of current and future generations is our core mission. It is a pleasure to share SMI and its history with America and we are very disappointed that a more collaborative approach was not considered or taken with this closure.

We are writing to update you on how we are progressing in implementing your closure order. We are also taking this opportunity to identify concerns related to your order. It is our hope that we can work cooperatively to restore a National Park Service presence on SMI to assure protection of our assets and to carry out our mutual responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, among others. It is also extremely important that we work to restore public access to SMI.

Public Notice: Given that you are the landowner and have issued the closure order, we have requested that your office issue a public notice of closure. We also request that the Navy post closure signs on the island. Visitation to SMI via our concessioner Island Packers begins in May. Once you announce the

Navy closure we will post a notice locally and on the park's our web page and we will notify Island Packers and our campground reservation concessioner along with businesses that hold commercial use authorizations. We will also inform all researchers and those with special use permits. We do not permit the NOAA marine mammal researchers located at Point Bennett, therefore the responsibility of notifying NOAA of the closure order will fall on the Navy.

NPS Assets on SMI: As stated earlier, I received your letter on April 14, 2014. I interpret your letter to mean that all NPS staff must leave the island. This short notice has left us with inadequate time to secure our assets prior to departure. We need at least a week or two to secure our structures and remove sensitive federal records and equipment, specifically communication equipment.

Resource Protection: With the NPS required to vacate the island, we request that the Navy post closure signage and staff the island to prevent trespass. These are similar to the actions that NPS undertook during the recent government shutdown. SMI is routinely visited by private boaters and fishers, and there has been panga (illegal drug trafficking) activity on and around the islands. Leaving the island vacant places both terrestrial and marine resources in jeopardy. The park boundary extends one nautical mile around the island. The Island Ranger normally maintains vigilance over these waters and the two marine reserves (no-take zones).

Unexploded Ordnance Training: We are in agreement with the need to train our staff in how to identify and deal with unexploded ordnance. We are in the process of organizing training for SMI staff and partners, with the assistance of Tom McLeod. Following unexploded ordnance training, I will assign the San Miguel Island Ranger Ian Williams to provide the required training to all personnel who will be working on SMI. Ranger Williams also serves as the park's Operational Leadership (OL) trainer. OL is an NPS program that improves operational safety and efficiency. After receiving this training I will assign Ranger Williams in providing unexploded ordnance training to all staff that have the need to work on SMI. All personnel trained (including staff, researchers, contractors, etc.) will be documented and these records will be made available to the Navy.

Fed-to-Fed Agreement: By this letter we are requesting that the Navy and NPS enter into a fed-to-fed agreement as-soon-as possible. Anna Shepard has been very helpful in explaining the need for this document. After my discussion with Ms. Shepard on April 15, 2014 it became clear that this may be a protracted process. In the meantime, we request that you reconsider public access.

Ever since 1963, the Navy has permitted visitors on SMI. At a minimum we request that the stipulations laid out in the 1976 agreement, which amended the 1963 agreement be reconsidered as a means to allow for public access as we work out the details of a fed-to-fed agreement. Under the 1976 agreement public access would be allowed through a "controlled Reservation System", visitors would be under the direct supervision of the NPS and visitation would be confined to daylight hours. The majority of SMI visitors camp and we feel that camping within the campground adjacent to Ranger Station constitutes "direct supervision" and should be allowed. A day trip to San Miguel Island via concession boat from Ventura involves a 3 ½-hour boat ride to the island, a skiff landing, two hours on the island, and a 3 ½-hour return boat trip.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): By this letter we are requesting that the Navy and NPS enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement. Since I arrived as Superintendent of Channel Islands National Park in 2003 I have met with each of the Commanding Officers for Naval Base Ventura County and I have expressed my interest in renewing the MOA. The closest I have come is a June 9, 2008 letter from Captain Connors reaffirming our day-to-day management of SMI.

Until a new MOA is developed and executed we are unclear of our responsibilities are not as clear given this sudden change in direction. In the meantime is the Navy prepared to carry out the natural and cultural resources management programs on SMI, specifically programs conducted under the Endangered Species Act, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act?

We look forward to talking with you on April 23 and working with you and your staff in expediting our return to SMI and the return public access to this nationally significant resource - San Miguel and Prince Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell E. Galpeau, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Russell E. Galpeau, Jr.
Superintendent

cc: Commander, Navy Region Southwest



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY
311 MAIN ROAD, SUITE 1
POINT MUGU, CA 93042-6033

IN REPLY REFER TO:

11010
Ser N0000CV/ 0105
January 23, 2014

Mr. Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.
Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Dr.
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Mr. Galipeau:

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CHANNEL
ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
WILDERNESS STUDY

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Channel Islands
National Park General Management Plan and Wilderness Study. As a
major landowner within the park, the Navy is greatly interested
in the draft plan.

As you may know, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) includes
three main operating areas: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San
Nicolas Island. NBVC is also responsible for thirteen "special
areas," including [REDACTED] San Miguel Island, and
[REDACTED] which are within the Channel Islands National Park
boundary. The Navy leases land from the Nature Conservancy at
[REDACTED] and has owned San Miguel Island and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] since 1934. These "special areas" are within an
operational range (Point Mugu Sea Range).

The Navy's comments on the draft EIS are included as an
attachment to this letter. However, I do want to highlight two
significant concerns:

[REDACTED]

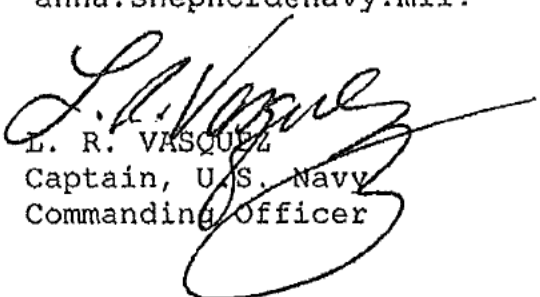
2. Potential Unexploded Ordnance at San Miguel Island
and [REDACTED] The Navy and the Air Force used San Miguel
Island and [REDACTED] intensively as targets for bombing and

11010
Ser N0000CV/0105
January 23, 2014

shelling from 1942 to 1963, and then more sporadically until the early 1970's. In 1965, the Navy initiated a four-day ordnance sweep to remove ordnance from San Miguel Island. Since that time, shrapnel, ammunition and bomb casings continue to be found. The most recent finding was on January 14, 2014. The Navy is treating the object as potential unexploded ordnance until our explosive safety staff have completed an evaluation of the object and have determined the appropriate course of action.

Based on the potential risk, we ask that the National Park Service (NPS) address safety in the EIS, specifically for the alternatives at San Miguel Island and [REDACTED]. Although the NPS is at the EIS stage in its planning process, we also request that you reconsider your recommendations at San Miguel Island and [REDACTED]. We understand that the NPS consulted with the Navy in 2002 regarding this plan; however, over the last ten years, the Department of Defense's requirements and policies for tracking and reporting unexploded ordnance and real property management have changed. NPS staff should meet with Navy staff to discuss safety; both parties should include staff with subject matter expertise in federal explosive and ordnance issues.

I regret that our comments may delay your planning process. However, I have shore installation management responsibility for Navy real property at Santa Cruz Island, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I must thoroughly consider any proposal that could impact public safety on Navy property. If you have any questions or need additional information, my point of contact for this matter is Ms. Anna Shepherd, who may be reached at COMM: (805) 989-9752 or email: anna.shepherd@navy.mil.


L. R. VASQUEZ
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Copy:
Greg Jarvis, Project Manager
National Park Service
Denver Service Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY
311 MAIN ROAD, SUITE 1
POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5033

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser N0000CV/0386
April 7, 2014

Mr. Russell E. Galipeau
Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001-4354

Dear Mr. Galipeau:

Thank you for your interest in the possible transfer of San Miguel Island from the Department of the Navy to the National Parks Service (NPS). Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) enjoys a strong relationship with your office in the shared mission of being good stewards of our Nation's precious resources.

The National Park Service's November release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for improved visitor experiences at the island and the discovery of possible unexploded ordnance in January, have prompted a comprehensive review of the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior regarding management of San Miguel Island and [REDACTED]. That review has revealed a lack of detail regarding the scale of the bombing conducted on San Miguel Island and as the Commanding Officer of Naval Base Ventura County, I have grave concerns for the safety of the public and Parks Service employees on the island as discussed during our telephone conversation on March 31, 2014.

San Miguel Island was used extensively as part of a bombing range during and after World War II. Although a cursory sweep was conducted in 1965, the range was still active through the 1970s. Restrictions on its use were put into place to minimize risk to NPS employees and researchers visiting the island. The existing agreement specifies that no overnight visits shall be allowed on the island but your EIS is proposing additional sites. Hiking trails are marked, but not blocked, and unescorted visitors may inadvertently enter unsafe areas.

As the landowner, and the ultimate party responsible for San Miguel Island and Prince Island, in the interest of public safety and federal policy regarding real property, the Navy requests that:

- a. The NPS cease all public visits upon receipt of this letter until such a time as the island can be properly assessed through a Department of Defense approved Risk Management Assessment.
- b. All NPS staff, including contractors or researchers, that work on or visit the island receive training regarding the unexploded

5090
Ser N0000CV/0386
April 7, 2014

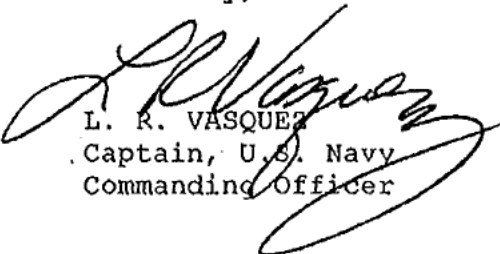
ordnance presence so they may appropriately respond should any be found. We will assist in identifying training that is approved by the Navy. Training for all staff should be completed within 60 days of receipt of this letter to facilitate the return of NPS staff to the island.

c. The NPS initiate a fed-to-fed use agreement request to the Navy to properly document use of the island, NPS and Navy responsibilities, liability, management, and other issues related to the use of the Navy's real property at San Miguel Island and [REDACTED] within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

d. The NPS and NBVC coordinate on a new MOA to address resource management at San Miguel Island and [REDACTED] within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

We look forward to our strong partnership with NPS and the Channel Islands National Park as we continue mutually beneficial use of the lands entrusted to our care. We understand that our request will impact operations at San Miguel Island and hope to move expeditiously to address these issues. Please contact my staff point of contact, Anna Shepherd, to coordinate training, execution of a real estate use agreement, and initiation of a new MOA. She may be reached at (805) 989-9752 or anna.shepherd@navy.mil.

Sincerely,


L. R. VASQUEZ
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Copy to:
Commander, Navy Region Southwest
Christine Lehnertz, Regional Director, Pacific West Region,
National Park Service



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY
311 MAIN ROAD, SUITE 1
POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5033

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N0000CV/0524

May 27, 2014

Mr. Russell E. Galipeau
Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001-4354

Dear Mr. Galipeau:

Thank you for your letter dated April 18, 2014 and your timely response to our requests. We are pleased that Channel Islands National Park (CINP) staff have received UXO training and are back at San Miguel Island. We are initiating work on a real estate use agreement and a memorandum of understanding and look forward to working with you and your staff on these efforts. As you are aware, these two actions will likely take some time, as a risk assessment must be completed first. I understand that you would like interim guidance for allowed activities and additional information regarding the Navy's ability to undertake the responsibility for natural and cultural resources management of San Miguel Island.

In the interest of safety, until we complete a risk assessment and have better understanding of the potential risks associated with unexploded ordnance at San Miguel Island, and as agreed, National Park Service staff and volunteers shall refrain from activities that involve digging, earth disturbance, dredging, new construction or similar activities at San Miguel Island. Trained parks service personnel should stay on marked trails and other areas currently under use by CINP. If you need further guidance regarding these activities, please contact my staff point of contact, Mr. Thomas McLeod at 805-989-7050 or at thomas.mcleod1@navy.mil.

Regarding natural and cultural resources management of San Miguel Island, please continue management of these resources per the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Navy and the Department of the Interior until a revised MOA is in effect. NB Ventura County, as part of Commander, Navy Installations Command is the designated agent for all Navy real property matters (land and facilities) within the CINP. Please coordinate with NBVC via my staff point of contact, Ms. Anna Shepherd at 805-989-9752 or at anna.shepherd@navy.mil.

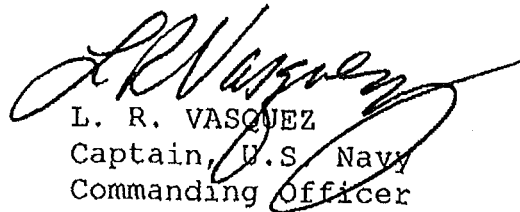
5090

Ser N0000CV/0524

May 27, 2014

Thank you again for your continued coordination with the Navy and your commitment to assuring public safety. I regret that our actions have caused impacts to your visitor operations at San Miguel Island; my staff is working to resolve these issues expeditiously. Please contact me anytime if you need additional information or have questions.

Sincerely,



L. R. VASQUEZ
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Copy to: Commander
Navy Region Southwest

Regional Director
Pacific West Region, National Park Service



Naval Base Ventura County

**311 Main Road Suite 1, Point Mugu CA 93042-5033
(805) 989-9234/FAX 989-1785**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE # 14-05

April 18, 2014

POC: Kimberly Gearhart (805) 989-9234

San Miguel Island closed to public

POINT MUGU, Calif. – Effectively immediately, public visits to San Miguel Island (SMI), part of the Channel Islands National Park (CINP), are temporarily suspended.

Due to safety concerns, the Department of the Navy, which is the land owner at SMI and is represented locally by Naval Base Ventura County, has asked the National Parks Service via the CINP Superintendent's office to halt all recreational visits to the island.

The island was used as part of a bombing range during and after World War II. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety while the Navy conducts a risk assessment and, if necessary, clean-up at the island. The length of the closure will depend on the risk assessment findings, but the island will likely not reopen to visitors this year.

"The Navy is dedicated to the conservation of our national resources, of which the Channel Islands are a unique and critical piece," said Capt. Larry Vasquez, NBVC's commanding officer. "But the safety and well-being of NPS personnel and those who visit San Miguel Island are our highest concern. We are working closely with our federal partners to ensure the park is a safe and inviting place to visit."

For more information regarding Naval Base Ventura County, please call the NBVC public affairs office at 805-989-9234.

For more information about National Parks Service programs at CINP, call the NPS public information office at 805-658-5725.

-END-

(b)(5)

Entire
letter
B5
exemption

Draft letter
(b)(5) withholding in entirety

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



DRAFT

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



DRAFT